

Subject: Sidewalk Committee

From: "Bruce Reichlen" <breichlen@makemwireless.com>

Date: Tue, 4 Sep 2007 08:40:10 -0400

To: "Paulina Knibbe" <p.knibbe@comcast.net>

CC: "Planning Board" <PB@acton-ma.gov>

Paulina,

Hello, My name is Bruce Reichlen. I'm on the planning board, but my comments here are as a citizen.

I understand the sidewalk committee design guidelines state that a buffer should be between a sidewalk and the street. I just wanted to provide you my observations of this guideline.

On busy roads, this is certainly a good idea. It adds safety. I also agree with the trees being between the sidewalk and road, if there is room without the trees blocking the sidewalks. Here pedestrians use cross walks, and the town maintains the buffer zones.

But in residential neighborhoods, where speed limits are lower, and people have a tendency to cross the streets at any time without cross walks (and we don't tend to put or enforce crosswalk markings in residential neighborhoods, nor should we) I think the priority should be visibility of the people to the drivers. Also in residential neighborhoods, it is not clear who should be maintaining the strip of grass or planting between the sidewalk and the road, so it often appears dead and poorly maintained. Here I believe the sidewalk should be right along the roadway.

Please consider having this design guideline different for sidewalks in neighborhoods, versus along main streets.

Just my thoughts,
Bruce Reichlen
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